



# Community-Wide Strategic Plan

## 2016



Institute for Decision Making | University of Northern Iowa



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# Community-Wide Strategic Plan 2016

## Purpose of the Planning Process:

To launch Cedar Falls' Future Forward 2025 community-wide strategic plan incorporating elements of existing plans and elevating focus on areas providing Cedar Falls transformative opportunities

The Cedar Falls' Future Forward 2025 Planning Team convened during the Spring of 2015 to undertake a process of envisioning what the community of Cedar Falls can and should be in the Year 2025. The Team met throughout 2015 and early 2016 to identify initiatives that could propel the community forward to become a community renowned for its people, sense of place and overall prosperity.

Cedar Falls has a strong history of developing and implementing community-wide strategic plans and continues to be a model to communities throughout Iowa. Therefore, the 2025 Planning Team identified an opportunity to build upon the foundation of Cedar Falls' 2020 Strategic Plan. The 2025 team expressed a deep recognition for the need to continue the pursuit of the goals and initiatives outlined in the 2020 Plan including:

- Increasing the Area's Economic Base
- Advancing the Safety, Health, Environment and Well-being of Citizens
- Further Developing Cedar Falls as a Center of Excellence for History, the Arts and Entertainment
- Providing High Quality Education
- Expanding Infrastructure

The 2025 Planning Team focused its attention on identify transformative outcomes that have the potential to result in broad and influential progress in Cedar Falls' quality of life, business climate and quality of place. The result is fifteen outcomes addressing prosperity, place and people, each with a series of objectives, lead organizations, timelines and supporting experts.

The Planning Team recognizes the Cedar Falls 2025 Community-wide Strategic Plan is one of several helping to enhance the community and the Cedar Valley. Appendix A contains a comparison of common areas of emphasis in the 2025 Plan and the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cedar Falls 2012. These plans are complimentary and both will no doubt influence the next rounds of comprehensive and community-wide planning.



# Community-Wide Strategic Plan 2016

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## **Cedar Falls 2025 Planning Team Co-Chairs:**

Therese Stevens – Mudd Advertising, Director of Operations

Kris Hansen – Western Home Communities, CEO

## **Cedar Falls 2025 Planning Team:**

Andy Pattee	Michael Hager
Audrey Kittrell	Nick Evens
Bob Manning	Pam Delegardelle
Brad Braley	Pam Taylor
Cary Darrah	Ron Gaines
Cynthia Kenyon	Russ Curtis
Darian Everding	Sarah Bey
Jeff Danielson	Sonya Thrall
Jim Newcomb	Stan Poe
Jim Stichter	Stephanie Sheetz
John Padget	Steve Bernard
Katie Evans	Sue Beach
Kim Manning	Susan Whitson
Kris Hansen	Sydney Coloff
Mayor Jim Brown	Taylor Morris
Mayor Jon Crews	Therese Stevens
Michael Flanscha	

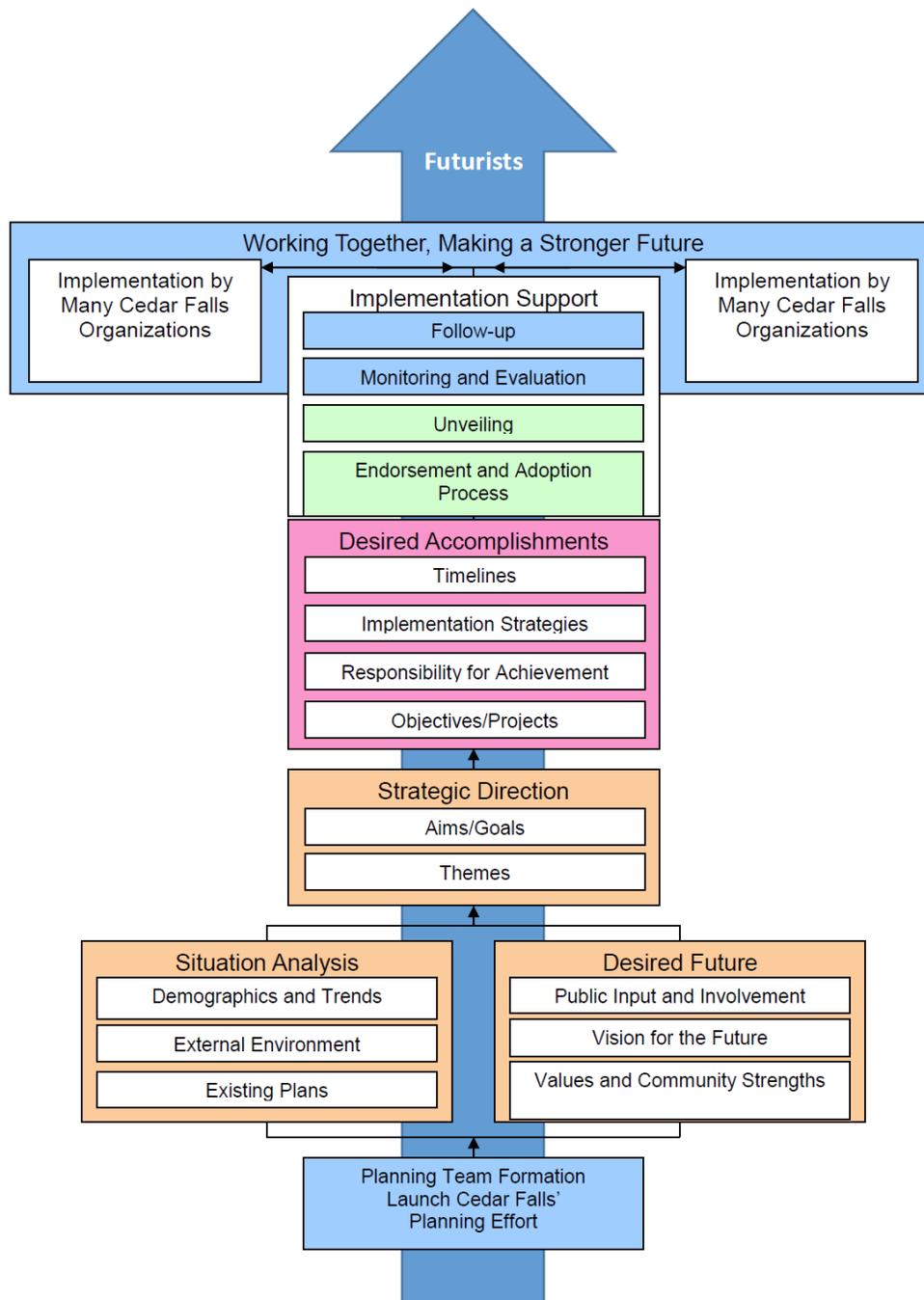
## **Planning Facilitators:**

Institute for Decision Making-University of Northern Iowa

LaDene Bowen, CEcD, FM

James Hoelscher

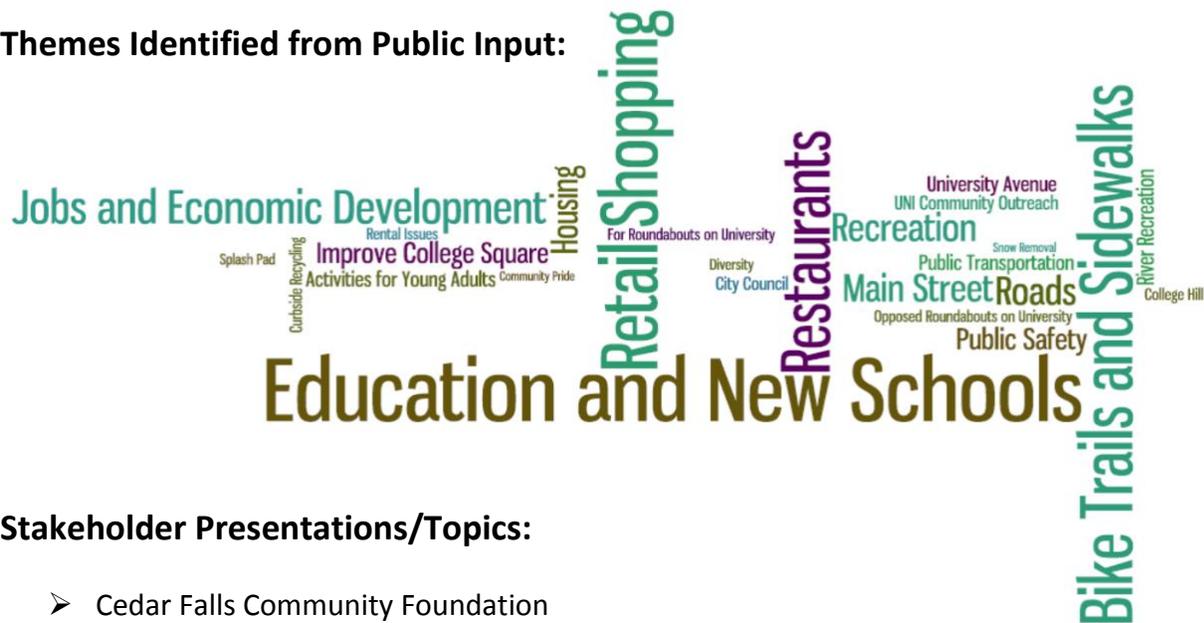
## Cedar Falls 2025 Planning Model:



## Public Input:

- Online Survey promoted to all Cedar Falls residents
- Public Idea Boards on which individuals posted dreams, needs and ideas for Cedar Falls. Boards made available throughout the community in June-July 2015

## Themes Identified from Public Input:



## Stakeholder Presentations/Topics:

- Cedar Falls Community Foundation
- Cedar Falls Community School District
- Cedar Falls Comprehensive Plan – City of Cedar Falls
- Hawkeye Community College
- Housing Development – Lockard Construction
- Industrial Park – City of Cedar Falls
- Iowa Northland Regional Council of Government - Transportation
- Unity Point Health
- University of Northern Iowa
- Western Home Communities
- Wheaton Franciscan



## 2025 Cornerstone Values

We value: **Progress**, as characterized by our proactive efforts to position the community for the future.

We value: Utilizing **best practices and collaboration** in and outside of the community to maximize the potential of our assets.

We value: **Education**, as characterized by lifelong learning processes available to all. It is our responsibility to help each individual reach his or her potential. We embrace that having an educated population is a key to being an adaptive and progressive community.

We value: **A safe and healthy environment**, as characterized by our expectation of clean air and water, our determination to preserve open spaces and natural areas, our provision for public safety services and the availability and accessibility of diverse recreational, cultural and wellness amenities. We encourage individual health, including quality, accessible healthcare services. A safe and healthy environment assures the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being and an overall higher quality of life for all of our citizens.

We value: **Inclusiveness and a sense of community**, as characterized by our respect for all citizens regardless of ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic class, age or disability. Our citizens feel connected to one another. Together they celebrate accomplishment and address adversity.

We value: **Economic health and opportunity**, as characterized by the availability of jobs which provide an improving standard of living. Key contributors include a local government that enables economic growth and the energetic encouragement of entrepreneurial activities. Acknowledging the increasingly global nature of the economy, we seek opportunities to collaborate with our regional partners.

We value: **Connectivity**, as characterized by our continual pursuit of transportation and technical enhancements to empower all residents, organizations, visitors and businesses to communicate, commute, learn, access services and conduct business.



### In 2025, Cedar Falls is renowned for being a...

#### **Destination** where:

The beautiful Cedar River teems with excitement and activity | attractive job opportunities transform into rewarding careers | endless paths lead through active neighborhoods and bustling parks | abundant dining and shopping opportunities satisfy unique tastes | every resident and visitor feels respected and valued | appreciation for history thrives alongside application of technology

#### **Hub** connecting:

Driven entrepreneurs | inspired artists | passionate educators | philanthropy and opportunity | knowledge-hungry students and life-long learners to ideas, events and opportunities throughout the community and around the world

#### **Partner** with:

Our neighborhoods and neighboring communities | local colleges and universities | residents striving to improve their quality of life | groups growing our pre k-12 schools | developers revitalizing commercial areas | leaders meeting the challenges of the future

#### **Magnet** drawing:

New businesses, new talent and new families | recent graduates, recent retirees and those in between | creative expression of art and culture | innovation, inclusive thinking and diverse lifestyles

#### **Provider** of:

Advanced technology | diligent stewardship of natural resources | distinct educational experiences and dynamic schools | life-enhancing care and wellness | comprehensive transportation accessibility | best practices in energy conservation and sustainability | fun, excitement and entertainment

## Shared Vision for Future Forward Cedar Falls 2025

### Prosperity

1. A dynamic and nationally recognized business climate of innovation, job growth, investment and diversified tax base fuel Cedar Falls' economy
2. Retail, commercial and service offerings in Cedar Falls mirror or surpass similar amenities found in metro areas throughout Iowa
3. Cedar River-related attractions, activities and beautification generate escalating economic impact through visitor revenues and residential/commercial development
4. Highly attractive and unique housing options to attract/retain talent and wealth with emphasis on millennials and retirees
5. Sustainable local foods co-op in Downtown Cedar Falls

### Place

6. Cedar Falls is ranked in the top ten nationally for quality of place driven by lifestyle amenities in neighborhoods
7. Cedar Falls is recognized throughout NE Iowa as having a variety of convenient, high quality and advanced healthcare services
8. Cedar Falls is a national model for state of the art connectivity for technology and transportation serving all residents, organizations and businesses
9. Proven and emerging approaches to sustainability and environmental conservation are in practice throughout all sectors of Cedar Falls
10. A wealth of art, culture, recreation and entertainment offerings accentuate all aspects of life in Cedar Falls
11. Development of North Cedar as a featured location for residential, commercial and recreational growth

### People

12. Cedar Falls is identified as a national leader in community engagement with colleges and universities
13. Welcoming inclusiveness is a key community asset for Cedar Falls
14. Cedar Falls collaborates closely with Waterloo and other neighboring Cedar Valley communities
15. Cedar Falls leads Iowa in learning and education for all ages



## Draft 2025 Outcomes and Objectives

### Prosperity

**1. Outcome: A dynamic and nationally recognized business climate of innovation, job growth, talent development and investment and a diversified tax base fuel Cedar Falls' economy**

**1a.** Maximize innovation and entrepreneurship within Cedar Falls' existing businesses and industries through award winning networking, education, mentorship and technology to strengthen retention and expansion opportunities

- Who is responsible: Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber
- Timeline: 2018
- Experts Needed: Community Main Street, College Hill Partnership, UNI Business and Community Services, Hawkeye Community College Business and Community Services, Technology Association of Iowa Tech Brew participants, Cedar Falls Utilities

**1b.** Amplify Cedar Falls' business/innovation support services and incubation programs for small businesses and new startups through expanded business (private sector) partnerships and collaboration

- Who is responsible: University of Northern Iowa Center for Business Growth and Innovation
- Timeline: 2018
- Experts Needed: City of Cedar Falls Planning & Community Services Division, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, Community Main Street, College Hill Partnership, Small Business Administration (Iowa)

**1c.** Coordinate and manage a venture fund of local investors targeting expanding and new Cedar Falls businesses

- Who is responsible: Cedar Valley Growth Fund I – Black Hawk Economic Development
- Timeline: 2017
- Experts Needed: University of Northern Iowa's Center for Business Growth and Innovation and City of Cedar Falls



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**1d.** Develop a national caliber public relations campaign to establish and maintain Cedar Falls as the preferred career destination for local university, college and high school graduates

- Who is responsible: Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber
- Timeline: 2017
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Community Main Street, College Hill Partnership, Marketing steering committee of local advertising/marketing firms, UNI Office of University Relations, University of Northern Iowa Business and Community Services, Hawkeye Community College Business and Community Services

**1e.** Implement innovative strategies to identify, attract and retain new talent to the Cedar Valley to ensure Cedar Falls employers can meet employment needs for operations and expansion

- Who is responsible: Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber
- Timeline: 2016
- Experts Needed: UNI Career Services, Hawkeye Community College, Cedar Valley Young Professionals, Cedar Valley Society of Human Resource Managers, Technology Association of Iowa

## **2. Outcome: Retail, commercial and service offerings in Cedar Falls mirror or exceed similar amenities found in metro areas throughout Iowa**

**2a.** Develop attraction destinations within Cedar Falls' existing, local businesses and/or new commercial businesses which create high level-shopping, dining and entertainment experiences capable of retaining and draw-in spending

- Who is responsible: Community Main Street, Waterloo/Cedar Falls Board of Realtors and College Hill Partnership
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, UNI Business and Community Services, Hawkeye Community College Business and Community Services, City of Cedar Falls Community Development



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**2b.** Complete a mixed used area in the Downtown District which includes micro-retail incubator space

- Who is responsible: River Place Development
- Timeline: 2019
- Experts Needed: Community Main Street – Business Improvement Committee, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, University of Northern Iowa Center for Business Growth and Innovation

**3. Outcome: Cedar River-related attractions, activities and beautification generate escalating economic impact through visitor revenues and residential/commercial development**

**3a.** Create a regionally recognized Cedar River Whitewater District complete with river assets, shops, restaurants, trails, events and activities capable of enhancing community and economic development, expanding recreational offerings and mitigating flood related concerns

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Community Development and Parks Division, Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Community Main Street
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, Iowa DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and White Water Association, other Cedar River Communities, Black Hawk County Conservation Commission, Cedar Trails Partnership and INRCOG

**4. Outcome: Highly attractive and unique housing options to attract/retain talent and wealth with emphasis on millennials and retirees**

**4a.** Develop downtown housing by creating multi-aged complexes that are closely positioned and connected to the Cedar River Whitewater district

- Who is responsible: Western Home Communities, Community Main Street
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: River Place Development, Home Builders Association of NE Iowa, local housing and commercial developers, Cedar Valley Young Professional groups



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**4b.** Expand mixed-use development within Cedar Falls including business and technology parks to increase businesses and housing units attractive to millennial and knowledge workers

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Planning & Community Services Division
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: business and technology park human resource staff, local housing developers, Cedar Valley Young professional groups, Community Main Street, College Hill Partnership, Home Builders Association of NE Iowa and local housing and commercial developers

### **5. Outcome: A sustainable local foods co-op within Cedar Falls**

**5a.** Open a permanent city market for residents and visitor featuring the community's food co-op with the possibility of farmers' markets, artists, related small businesses and entertainment

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Co-op
- Timeline: 2018
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls' Farmers Markets Leadership, local artists, Art and Culture Board, Developers of like co-op market, Community Main Street, College Hill Partnership, Cedar Falls Public Art Committee

## Place

### **6. Outcome: Cedar Falls is ranked in the top ten nationally for quality of place driven by lifestyle amenities in all Cedar Falls' neighborhoods**

**6a.** Revitalize existing public parks as needed including interactive play features and public art

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Public Works & Parks Division
- Timeline: 2025



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- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Parks and Recreation Commission, UNI Facilities Planning-grounds keeping and sustainable landscaping, UNI Department of Art, Hawkeye Community College-Landscape and Turf Management, UNI School of HPELS-National Program for Playground Safety, Art and Culture Board, Cedar Falls Public Art Committee

### **6b.** Develop inclusive parks and public venues featuring innovative design and features for individuals with special needs

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks Division and City of Cedar Falls Recreation and Community Programs Division
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Parks and Recreation Commission, UNI Facilities Planning-grounds keeping and sustainable landscaping, UNI Department of Art, HCC-Landscape and Turf Management, UNI School of HPELS-National Program for Playground Safety, Bo's Beautiful Blessings, Cedar Falls Public Art Committee

### **6c.** Develop an on-line social network of residents to strengthen neighborhood communication

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls, Cedar Falls' Neighborhood Associations
- Timeline: 2016
- Experts Needed: Technical advisors to select, maintain and update the on-line forum

### **6d.** Create an advisory committee of neighborhood association members to oversee collaboration between associations and the formalization of new neighborhoods within Cedar Falls

- Who is responsible: College Hill Partnership, Community Main Street, North Cedar Neighborhood Association, Overman Park Neighborhood Association
- Timeline: 2025
- Experts Needed: City of Cedar Falls Planning and Community Services Division



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### **7. Outcome: Cedar Falls is recognized as having a variety of convenient, quality and advanced wellness and healthcare services**

**7a.** Remain a national model of community Blue Zones sustainability, via long-term financial support and resident/business commitment and engagement

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Blue Zones
- Timeline: 2025
- Experts Needed: UNI School of HPELS, Black Hawk County Health Department, Pathways Behavioral Services, INRCOG, UNI-Center for Energy and Environmental Education, ISU Extension, Cedar Valley Grows, Cedar Valley Healthy Coalition

**7b.** Establish Cedar Falls as a national destination for healthcare professionals at all levels seeking employment, education, continuing education/training, research and community outreach opportunities

- Who is responsible: Iowa Works-Health Sector Board
- Timeline: 2025
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Blue Zones, UNI School of HPELS, Allen College, Hawkeye Community College, Iowa Workforce Development, Unity Point Hospital, Mercy Health Network-Sartori Hospital, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, Western Home Communities, Care Initiatives, New Aldaya Lifescapes, Cedar Falls Health Center, Bickford of Cedar Falls

### **8. Outcome: Cedar Falls is a national model for state of the art connectivity for technology and transportation serving all residents, organizations and businesses**

**8a.** Address transportation accessibility, affordability and parking-related issues for residents, students and workers at all mobility and income levels and in all areas of the community

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Community Development
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Utilities, INRCOG, Met Transit

**8b.** Remain a leader in advancing Internet and connectivity-related technology serving Cedar Falls

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Utilities
- Timeline: 2025



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- Experts Needed: Local tech related businesses, Technology Association of Iowa, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, University of Northern Iowa, Hawkeye Community College

### **9. Outcome: Proven and emerging approaches to sustainability and environmental conservation are in practice throughout all sectors of Cedar Falls**

**9a.** Implement state of the art recycling programs and recycling related education throughout Cedar Falls including the recycling of hazardous waste (e.g. batteries, paints, solvents)

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks Division
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: UNI's Iowa Waste Reduction Center, Rite Environmental, Waste Trac, Cedar Valley Recycle, Iowa Waste Exchange, Black Hawk Solid Waste Management Commission, UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

**9b.** Implement progressive water quality, conservation and energy planning strategies

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Community Development, Cedar Falls Utilities
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education, Black Hawk Soil and Water Commission, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

**9c.** Plant and maintain 300 trees annually in Cedar Falls neighborhoods and public spaces

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Utilities Trees Committees
- Timeline: 2016
- Experts Needed: City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks Division, UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education-Americanorp, Black Hawk County Conversation, Iowa DNR, Iowa Urban Tree Council, Green Scene, Trees Forever

## 10. Outcome: A wealth of art, culture, recreation and entertainment offerings accentuate all aspects of life in Cedar Falls

**10a.** Expand and create events, festivals, activities and high quality entertainment targeting young professionals and families

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitor Bureau
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Community Main Street, City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks, Oster Regent Theatre, Cedar Valley Young Professional groups, UNI Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and the Cedar Falls Historical Society Cedar Valley Jaycees, Junior League of Waterloo-Cedar Falls, UNI Student Groups, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance, Cedar Valley Cyclists, Cedar Valley Bicycle Collective, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, Cedar Trails Partnership, Cedar Valley Acoustic Guitar Association, UNI Outdoor Recreation Services, UNI School of Music, Cedar Falls Municipal Band, Live to Nine Organizers, Sturgis Falls Organizers, Cedar Valley Association for Soft Trails, Cedar Valley Sports Commission, Hearst Center for the Arts and Art and Culture Board

**10b.** Create a public splash pad and recreation area in coordination with the Cedar River White Water District and Downtown District

- Who is responsible: Community Main Street, River Place Development
- Timeline: 2018
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks, City of Waterloo, Whitewater Committee

**10c.** Develop and/or enhance public gathering places/venues including but not limited to amenities such as zip lines, live music and park equipment for making music (harmonic park).

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks Division
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls' bicycle/pedestrian task force, Cedar Falls Park and Recreation Commission, Community Business District, Cedar Falls Public Art Committee

**10d.** Develop public mixed-use spaces for artists to create, exhibit and sell their works, while raising the community’s overall appreciation for art

- Who is responsible: Art and Culture Board, UNI Department of Art
- Timeline: 2019
- Experts Needed: River Place Development, Hawkeye Community College Department of Art, UNI School of Music, Waterloo Center for the Arts, Community Main Street, College Hill Partnership, Iowa Arts Council, UNI Center for Business Growth and Innovation/Small Business Development Center, Cedar Falls Public Art Committee

**11. Outcome: Development of North Cedar as a featured location for residential, commercial and recreational growth**

**11a.** Increase annual development in North Cedar based upon a plan outlining connectivity, housing, bikability and funding opportunities

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Community Development and North Cedar Neighborhood Association
- Timeline: 2025
- Experts Needed: Housing developers, Cedar Falls Community Foundation, North Cedar business owners, Cedar Falls Utilities, Cedar Falls Public Art Committee, City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks Division, North Cedar School and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

**11b.** North Cedar neighborhood development addressing the Center Street project, connectivity and funding strategies

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls Engineering Services Division and North Cedar Neighborhood Association
- Timeline: 2019
- Experts Needed: City of Cedar Falls Public Works and Parks Division, North Cedar School and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

## People

### 12. Outcome: Cedar Falls is identified as a national leader in community engagement with colleges and universities

**12a.** Establish a co-learning center which provides an alternative to in-seat models of education to encompass all learning styles. The Center will introduce a variety of career paths which are diverse to meet the adaptive needs of employers

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Public Library
- Timeline: 2020
- Experts Needed: Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, those currently implementing similar pilot programs, Cedar Falls Community School District, UNI College of Education, Hawkeye Community College, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Advanced Manufacturing Center/TechWorks

**12b.** Increase enrollment at UNI by elevating intentional community, business and university engagement through promoting learning, service and internship opportunities throughout Cedar Falls

- Who is responsible: Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, UNI,
- Timeline: 2018
- Experts Needed: Cedar Valley Non-profit Alliance, UNI Non-Profit Leadership Center, Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley, Iowa Workforce Development, UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education-Americorp

### 13. Outcome: Welcoming inclusiveness is a key community asset for Cedar Falls so that all residents are empowered to maximize their quality of life

**13a.** Implement an expanded, community-wide model for engagement and inclusivity (i.e., training and education)

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission
- Timeline: 2016
- Experts Needed: Representatives from the Cedar Falls/Cedar Valley LGBT community, UNI International Students and Scholars Office, UNI Office of International Programs, Cedar Falls Ministerial Association, Cedar Valley Society of Human Resource



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Managers, Greater Cedar Valley Diversity and Inclusion Committee, UNI LGBT Advisory and Advocacy Committee, Iowa Center for Immigrant Leadership and Integration

**13b.** Expand projects/organizations to provide life and job skills for Cedar Falls residents with disabilities, as well as to prepare employers to provide jobs to these individuals

- Who is responsible: Goodwill Industries of Northeast Iowa, Exceptional Persons Incorporated
- Timeline: 2017
- Experts Needed: Iowa Workforce Development, AEA 267-River Hills, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber Diversity and Inclusion Partnership, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, Inclusion Partnership, Manpower, Inc.

### **14. Outcome: Cedar Falls collaborates closely with Waterloo and other neighboring Cedar Valley communities**

**14a.** Initiate a Cedar Valley regional vision and shared strategic plan addressing people, place and prosperity

- Who is responsible: INRCOG
- Timeline: 2017
- Experts Needed: Cedar Valley Regional Partnership, City of Cedar Falls Planning & Community Services Division, City and County officials from Black Hawk, Grundy, Bremer, Buchanan and Butler Counties

### **15. Outcome: Cedar Falls leads Iowa in learning and education for all ages**

**15a.** Recruit Cedar Falls business/industry and residents to volunteer time, talent and financial support to the Cedar Valley MakersSpace and all local makerspaces, to promote collaborative learning, creative design, and manufacturing for people of all ages and skill levels.

- Who is responsible: Cedar Valley Makers
- Timeline: 2016
- Experts Needed: Cedar Falls Library, University of Northern Iowa, Hawkeye Community College, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber, John Deere, Doerfer Engineering and other manufacturing firms, Cedar Falls Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, Art and Culture Board



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**15b.** Pursue official international “sister community” relationships to expand high school and college student exchanges and learning opportunities

- Who is responsible: City of Cedar Falls – Mayor’s Office
- Timeline: 2018
- Experts Needed: University of Northern Iowa International Students and Scholars Office, Cedar Falls Rotary, Cedar Falls Community School District, Grundy Center and other model communities

**15c.** Recruit six Cedar Falls community leaders to receive Cedar Falls Futurist training to bring awareness of national and international trends, concepts and best practices to Cedar Falls’ organizations, business and government

- Who is responsible: UNI Institute for Decision Making
- Timeline: Annually
- Experts Needed: UNI Creative Life Research Center, City of Cedar Falls Community Planning Department, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

**15d.** Continue implementation of the 10-year facility plan and curriculum innovation to provide exemplary pre-k- 12 education

- Who is responsible: Cedar Falls Community School District
- Timeline: Annually
- Experts Needed: UNI College of Education, AEA 267, Iowa Department of Education



## Community-Wide Strategic Plan 2016

# Common Areas of Cedar Falls' Comprehensive and Community-wide Plans

Key Area	Comprehensive Plan 2012	2025 Community-wide Strategic Plan
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Consider developing a recycling expansion plan	9a. Implement state of the art recycling programs and recycling related education throughout Cedar Falls including the recycling of hazardous waste (e.g. batteries, paints, solvents)
	Address storm water volume, rate and water quality	9b. Implement progressive water quality, conservation and energy planning strategies
	Provide incentives for naturalized storm water management and stream restoration	
	Update City Code to require retaining of storm water runoff	
	Identify and plan improvements to develop areas which degrade downstream water quality	
	Define regional storm water treatment systems for all streams	
<b>Commercial Development</b>	Support neighborhood-oriented commercial development in residential areas	4b. Expand mixed-use development within Cedar Falls including business and technology parks to increase businesses and housing units attractive to millennial and knowledge workers
	Provide attractive, contemporary sites for commercial and industrial development that take advantage of the city's transportation, location and environmental assets	11a. Increase annual development in North Cedar based upon a plan outlining connectivity, housing, bikability and funding opportunities
	Focus commercial development in the downtown, at major intersections, in key neighborhood nodes and in mixed-use settings	2b. Complete a mixed used area in the Downtown District which includes micro-retail incubator space



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	Promote varying scales of commercial development ranging from neighborhood shops to regional commercial centers	2a. Develop attraction destinations within Cedar Falls' existing, local businesses and/or new commercial businesses which create high level-shopping, dining and entertainment experiences capable of retaining and draw-in spending
<b>Parks and Recreations</b>	Plan new parks and open space in target growth areas and maintain a high level of park and recreational services across the city  Assess park needs on existing public lands  Acquire and expand parks and open space through park dedication, floodplain buyout, conservation easement, fee purchase and transfer of development rights	6a. Revitalize existing public parks as needed including interactive play features and public art  6b. Develop inclusive parks and public venues featuring innovative design and features for individuals with special needs
<b>Environmental Priorities</b>	Consider a Natural Resource Overlay District to guide development in riparian zones, greenways and environmentally sensitive areas  Develop incentives to guide developments toward using conservation and low impact design principles  Develop incentives to restore and manage environmentally sensitive lands in private ownership   Consider a tree ordinance that protects trees and mitigates loss from construction	9b. Implement progressive water quality, conservation and energy planning strategies      9c. Plant and maintain 300 trees annually in Cedar Falls neighborhoods and public spaces
<b>Land Use</b>	Preserve an interconnected system of greenways and natural areas that will provide natural storm water management and enhance the park system   Ensure that new residential developments connect well to existing neighborhoods and are not isolated	6a. Revitalize existing public parks as needed including interactive play features and public art   4b. Expand mixed-use development within Cedar Falls including business and technology parks to increase businesses and housing units attractive to millennial and knowledge workers  11b. North Cedar neighborhood development addressing the Center Street project, connectivity and funding strategies



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## Housing

Support a variety of housing options for a range of incomes and ages

Review and revise existing guidelines applicable to the College Hill Neighborhood

4a. Develop downtown housing by creating multi-aged complexes that are closely positioned and connected to the Cedar River Whitewater district

4b. Expand mixed-use development within Cedar Falls including business and technology parks to increase businesses and housing units attractive to millennial and knowledge workers

## Transportation and Connectivity

Practice multi-modal street design to accommodate sidewalks, trails, bike lanes as appropriate

Provide multiple links between new and existing development

Provide trail connections that link residential areas with existing neighborhoods

8a. Address transportation accessibility, affordability and parking-related issues for residents, students and workers at all mobility and income levels and in all areas of the community

## Community Facilities

Support planned expansion for Hearst Center

10c. Develop and/or enhance public gathering places/venues

## Economic Development

Implement the recommendations of the Cedar Falls 2020 plan

Build upon the recommendations of the Cedar Falls 202 plan